

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05  
DODE-00 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /123 W  
-----087145 122205Z /64-65

R 122019Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6105  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
USMISSION GENEVA

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NOFORN

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E. O. 11652: XGDS-L  
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, UK, UR, ILO  
SUBJECT: AMNESTY CONTINUES TO PRESS SOVIET TRADE UNION

RIGHTS ISSUE: TUC "OPTS FOR CAUTION"

REF: LONDON 6813

SUMMARY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS PUBLICIZE SOVIET ABUSES OF WORKERS SEEKING TO ORGANIZE UNIONS. ACTION IN THE UK IS DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT THE LABOR PARTY AND THE TUC, BUT AS YET HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THAT ORGANIZATION (AND ITS BRITISH SECTION IN PARTICULAR) INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THE TUC, THE LABOR PARTY, AND OTHER BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF THE ABUSES OF BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS FOR SOVIET WORKERS UNDER SOVIET LAW. AMNESTY HAS WRITTEN AGAIN TO TUC SECRETARY LEN MURRAY "ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS OF WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CASES OF VARIOUS SOVIET WORKERS DETAINED IN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS". THE LETTER FROM THE BRITISH SECTION OF AMNESTY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED "... THE TUC TO CONSIDER FORMALLY INSTITUTING COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE ARTICLES OF THE ILO. IT WOULD SEEM TO US THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE A PARTICULARLY GOOD CHANCE OF MEETING WITH SUCCESS, THAT IS TO SAY, OF BRINGING VITAL HELP TO THE

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VICTIMS OF THESE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE USSR".

2. AMNESTY IS ALSO PRESSING THE LABOR PARTY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) THROUGH "LEFT WING" MP ERIC HEFFER WHO PLACED A MOTION BEFORE THE NEC "THAT THIS NEC SUPPORTS THOSE WORKERS IN THE SOVIET UNION WHO WISH TO ORGANIZE FREE TRADE UNIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT EXIST IN BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY... DESPITE THE ILO NOT BEING PREPARED TO INTERVENE... THE NEC BELIEVES THAT THE WORKERS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO ORGANIZE FREE TRADE UNIONS AS DO THE WORKERS IN CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA", AND ELSEWHERE. THIS RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE LABOR PARTY INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEC DEFER ACTION PENDING A REPLY TO A LETTER BY UC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY TO A. SHIBAYEV, THE SOVIET AUCCTU'S SECRETARY. THE TUC LETTER WAS DESIGNED "TO GET THE FACTS" CONCERNING THE REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION WAS ATTACKED IN A MAY 11 GUARDIAN EDITORIAL WHICH DECLARED

"THE LABOR PARTY MUST SHORTLY MAKE UP ITS MIND WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE 200 SOVIET CITIZENS WHO WANT TO SET UP A TRADE UNION ORGANIZED INDEPENDENT OF THE SOVIET STATE... IF, AS IS ALREADY WELL KNOWN, THE LABOR PARTY CAN OFFICIALLY CONDEMN TAME TRADE UNIONS IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA, IT ALSO SIMPLY HAS, AS A LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE, TO CONDEMN THEM IN THE SOVIET UNION."

4. THE BASIC THRUST OF THE AMNESTY CAMPAIGN NOW IS "WHY ARE THE TUC AND LABOR PARTY WAITING?" AMNESTY, IN ADDITION TO LEAKS, INSPIRED EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES IN

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THE BRITISH PRESS, IS ALSO CIRCULARIZING A MODEL RESOLUTION TO LABOR PARTY BRANCHES, TRADES COUNCILS, LOCAL TRADE UNION BODIES AND OTHERS FOR TRANSMISSION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS VIEWING "WITH CONCERN THE IMPRISONMENT OF WORKERS IN THE USSR AND TO URGE THEIR PARENT BODIES TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES". IT HAS ALSO CIRCULARIZED EVERY MEMBER OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL AND EXPECTS TO DO THE SAME WITH MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY NEC.

5. ACCORDING TO AMNESTY, THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND DRINK WORKERS SECRETARIAT HAVE ALSO WRITTEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET WORKERS, AND HAS SENT AN APPEAL TO THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL AND GENERAL WORKERS (AT THE REQUEST OF GENERAL SECRETARY CHARLES LEVENSON) TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. WHAT THE TUC WILL DO IS BEING HELD VERY TIGHTLY WITHIN THE STAFF AND ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. MORE GENERALLY, GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS EXHIBIT A CERTAIN EMBARRASSMENT MIXED WITH SPURIOUS AND DISPARATE VIEWS CONCERNING POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION BY THE TUC (E.G. "WE MUST STAND UP FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS, BUT IT IS MOST EFFECTIVE TO DO IT QUIETLY, AND WE MUST NOT GIVE THE SOVIETS THE IMPRESSION WE ARE ENCOURAGING SPLITTING TACTICS IN THEIR ORGANIZATION").

6. AS MATTERS STAND NOW, THE TUC HAS NO COMMITTEE POSITION ON THE SOVIET WORKERS' ISSUE OTHER THAN ITS GENERIC ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY OF SUPPORTING TRADE UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. MURRAY HAS RECEIVED AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO HIS LETTER TO SHIBAYEV, BUT NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.  
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THE NEXT STEP BY THE TUC WILL DEPEND ON THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET RESPONSE, BUT MURRAY DID NOT INDICATE HOW

LONG HE WOULD WAIT TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE IF A RESPONSE  
IS NOT FORTHCOMING. MURRAY PLAYED DOWN ANY POSSIBILITY  
OF THE TUC "GOING PUBLIC" ON THE ISSUE, ENDORSED THE  
ACTION OF THE LABOR PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AS  
PROPER SINCE THE SOVIET WORKERS' MATTER WAS "A TRADE  
UNION AFFAIR" AND GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHAT THE  
TUC MIGHT DO IF THE SOVIET WORKERS' ISSUE WERE FORMALIZED  
AS A COMPLAINT AT THE ILO. HE NOTED THAT THE TUC HAD  
DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH THE EUROPEA TRADE UNION  
CONFEDERATION (ETUC) WHICH DECIDED THAT THE MATTER WAS  
MORE APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ICFTU.

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 12 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Subject:** AMNESTY CONTINUES TO PRESS SOVIET TRADE UNION RIGHTS ISSUE: TUC "OPTS FOR CAUTION"  
**TAGS:** ELAB, SHUM, UK, UR, ILO, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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